

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. (amended) An exhaust passage structure in an outboard engine system, in which at least a portion of an exhaust passage is
5 integrally formed in a case member (41) having a drive shaft (50) accommodated therein for transmitting a driving force from an engine (E) to a propeller (52),

characterized in that openings (e_2 , e_4) of said exhaust passage are defined in a sidewall of said case member (41) which
10 is disposed under an engine block (11), and an exhaust passage forming an exhaust silencing portion is defined between said case member (41) and a lid (48) detachably coupled to cover said openings (e_2 , e_4).

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2. An exhaust passage structure in an outboard engine system
15 according to claim 1, wherein an oil pan (41_1) for storing a lubricating oil for the engine (E) is integrally formed within said case member (41).

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3. (amended) An exhaust passage structure in an outboard engine system in which a catalytic converter (72) for purifying an
20 exhaust gas discharged from an engine (E) is mounted in an exhaust passage for guiding the exhaust gas,

characterized in that at least a portion of the exhaust passage is integrally formed in a case member (41) which is
disposed under an engine block (11) to accommodate a drive shaft
25 (50) therein for transmitting a driving force from the engine (E) to a propeller (52); a connection into which said exhaust

passage openings is formed in a side wall of said case member (41); and said catalytic converter (72) is disposed in a space surrounded by the case member (41) and a lid (48) detachably coupled to said connection to permit the exhaust gas to flow.

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4. An exhaust passage structure in an outboard engine system according to claim 3, wherein said catalytic converter (72) is supported on said lid (48).

5. An exhaust passage structure in an outboard engine system according to claim 3, wherein said catalytic converter (72) is supported on said case member (41).

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6. (amended) An exhaust passage structure in an outboard engine system in which a catalytic converter (72) for purifying an exhaust gas discharged from a 4-cycle engine (E) is mounted in an exhaust passage for guiding the exhaust gas,

15 characterized in that at least a portion of the exhaust passage and an oil pan (41) for restoring a lubricating oil for the engine (E) are integrally formed in a case member (41) which is disposed under an engine block (11) to accommodate a drive shaft (50) therein for transmitting a driving force from
20 the engine (E) to a propeller (52); a connection into which said exhaust passage opens is formed in a sidewall of said case member (41); and said catalytic converter (72) is disposed in a space surrounded by said case member (41) and a lid (48) detachably coupled to said connection to permit the exhaust gas to flow.